

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

70 Years
"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"

Phone: (651) 602-7900
FAX: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via Email

September 2, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 260-5-54

SUBJECT: INF – MINNESOTA NRCS MARKETING NEWS RELEASE

Purpose. To provide a Marketing Team News Release.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

Attached to this bulletin is a news release entitled ***White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation, August 28-31, 2005***. It was prepared for the NRCS Marketing Team by Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist. The NRCS State Office will be distributing the news release to state wide news outlets.

Please feel free to adapt, as needed, and distribute as soon as possible to your local news outlets.

Questions regarding the MN NRCS Marketing Team efforts should be directed to John Nicholson, Marketing Chair, and public information efforts should be directed to Julie MacSwain.

//s//

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment - News Release

DIST: AE

NEWS RELEASE

White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation August 29-31, 2005

ST. PAUL, Minnesota, September 2, 2005- William Hunt, State Conservationist for MN NRCS and Kasey Reed, ASTC-FO St. Peter, Minnesota represented NRCS at the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in St. Louis, MO. The Glacial Ridge Tall-Grass Prairie Restoration, a Minnesota project, was one of 10 projects in the country highlighted at the conference.

Case studies for the White House Cooperative Conservation Conference were chosen due to their outstanding conservation stewardship and cooperative conservation partnerships. Indeed, this was an honor for Minnesota NRCS.

In October of 2004, Glacial Ridge became the Nation's 545th National Wildlife Refuge. At its core is 24,000 acres that form the largest contiguous tall grass prairie and wetland restoration project in the country. More than 30 conservation partners have played an active role in returning the land to its pre-settlement wetlands condition. When fully restored, the project will provide tremendous habitat for gray wolf, waterfowl, prairie chickens and other upland game birds, and a host of other prairie species.

At NRCS, cooperative conservation is all about helping people help the land. We know that those who depend upon the land to make their living have a vested interest in sound, sustainable stewardship. Since 1935, NRCS has been a partner in conservation. For seven decades, our job has been to serve as a catalyst and coordinator for locally led, community-based approaches that benefit the environment.

This week, NRCS participated in the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in St. Louis, MO – a gathering of public and private organizations and individuals similar to the first conservation convocation convened by President Teddy Roosevelt nearly 100 years ago. The focus is finding collaborative, innovative solutions to prevent soil erosion, increase water quality and quantity and establish and maintain wildlife habitat.

As President Roosevelt put it, "The farmer is a good farmer who, having enabled the land to support himself and to provide for the education of his children, leaves it to them a little better than he found it himself." Cooperative conservation is the best strategy to encourage and assist landowners in conserving the land, for the benefits of all of us today as well as the next generation.

#

NRCS is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer